TL 2697

Letter from East-Timor received in Portugal in May 1984

Concerning the military situation. Many battalions have arrived and none has left. You see the roads filled with Indonesian soldiers; specially on the way from Baucau to Lospallos, Viqueque. But there are many (soldiers) everywhere. On a backed-up basis it is calculated that there are about 30.000 Indonesian soldiers operating or stationed here. Sometimes there are 6 or 7 ships in Dili or just in front of Dili; now all civilian trucks in Dili have been mobilized for military transports; Dili is full of military vehicles; Taibesse (part of the town of Dili) is overflowing with militaries in houses and in very big tents. Specially in the region of Lospallos there are troops of all arms *. Dili is every night being patrolled by tanks; there are tens of posts where Timorese men are forced to spend the nights under the open sky with the order to not let Fretilin pass or to alarm if they see it.... But in all the villages it is like this. Sometimes there are 8 planes bombing (jet fighters and normal bombers), even at night. In Dili more than 11 very big war helicopters are stationed. Fretilin never had planes, nor tanks and it has been fighting courageously for 9 years against this exhibition of violence. At the present moment the male population is being mobilized in order to accompany the battalions in their present operations; after the examinations also the school students will be mobilized. In the Baucau region the people were already forced to move. Everybody here knows that all this means big massacres of the population, even inside the villages; the list of people to be assassinated is set up previously. Whole families are being exterminated, for instance the family of Nicolau Lobato (who was President of Fretilin and the Republic); it is not yet three weeks ago that another of his family members has been eliminated, it was done in a way to make it look like

* meaning army, airforce and navy (note of the translator)

a traffic accident (Paulo Lobato).
It is known here that the militaries want to drown everything in blood during the next months so that they get to the United Nations with their head raised. They are furious with Monsignor D. Martinho.
It is being said that after this cleaning-up and genocide there will be a new comedy forcing the people to celebrate a feast to receive with "joy" the U.N. delegates. Up to this paragraph you can communicate everything to Monsignor (D. Martinho).